

Eugene O'Neill House, Old Barn
(Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site,
Tao House)
Kuss Road
Danville vicinity
Contra Costa County
California

HABS No. CA-2078-B

HABS
CAL,
7-DAN.V,
1-B-

PHOTOGRAPHS

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

EUGENE O'NEILL HOUSE,
OLD BARN

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Location: Kuss Road, Danville vicinity, Contra Costa County, California.

Situation: This building was on-site before the O'Neill ownership and is not in good condition. It is a simple rectangle, 40 feet by 50 feet of wood-frame construction. It sits opposite the courtyard side of the house to the southwest. There is a generous plowed field which separates it from the Tao House drive and which also serves as a setting for the old barn.

Roof: The roof is a simple gable that is not symmetrical. One half has a long continuous slope; and the other has a break as if there was an added shed which forms a clerestory on that side. It is believed the whole structure was built at one time. The present roof finish is green composition shingles which are in poor condition. Earlier wood-shingle roofing is under the present finish.

Walls: The exterior finish of the wall is 1 by 12-inch vertical board and batten siding painted white. The condition of the walls is fair but they are in need of some patching and replacement of siding boards. The walls sit on concrete pads which are the foundations. The supporting interior structure is a series of eight wood posts that carry the roof and divide the interior into three aisles. Each aisle is then divided into five interior bays.

Floor: For most there is a tamped earth floor. One corner on the southwest side has a concrete slab. This seems to have been added as a vehicle storage pad (garage). Much of the floor is covered with a heavy layer of straw/manure litter.

Other: There are several openings. The southwest face accommodates two large openings, neither of which has a door. There are some small windows to the southeast. The northeast face has a couple of doors and loft openings, but there is not an interior loft now. The north corner of the building is open to both east and west. This provides a cantilevered corner. There is no water and no electricity in the barn.

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